

CLAIMS

1-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) An optical system with reduced chromatic aberration, for use in microscopes for imaging the light source in the aperture diaphragm of a condenser, comprising:

a collector assembly; and

an apochromaticizing adapter assembly which is associated with the collector assembly;

wherein the adapter assembly has three lenses, wherein one lens having negative power is arranged between two lenses having positive power; and

~~The optical system according to claim 10,~~ wherein the three lenses are separated from one another by air gaps, and the lens surfaces facing the air gaps have identical radii.

12. (previously presented) An optical system with reduced chromatic aberration, for use in microscopes for imaging the light source in the aperture diaphragm of a condenser, comprising:

a collector assembly; and

an apochromaticizing adapter assembly which is associated with the collector assembly;

wherein the adapter assembly has three lenses, wherein one lens having negative power is arranged between two lenses having positive power; and

~~The optical system according to claim 10,~~ wherein the optical characteristics of the two lenses having positive power are identical.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) An optical system with reduced chromatic aberration, for use in microscopes for imaging the light source in the aperture diaphragm of a condenser, comprising:

a collector assembly; and

an apochromaticizing adapter assembly which is associated with the collector assembly;

Serial No.: 10/595,834

~~The optical system according to claim 9,~~ wherein means are provided for detachably connecting the adapter assembly to interchangeable collector assemblies which have different optical characteristics.

15-16. (canceled)